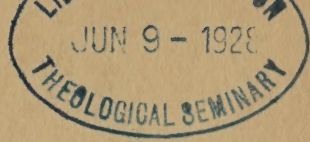


Nebraska, University

Religious influences

LD3676
N36



Bulletin
of the University
of Nebraska

Religious
Influences

Series XXXIII

No. 18

Published by the University

April 3, 1928

The Bulletin of the University of Nebraska is published monthly in October, weekly in February and May, tri-weekly in March, semi-weekly in April, and semi-monthly in June of each year by the University of Nebraska. Entered at the Post-Office at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second class matter under Act of Congress, July 16, 1894.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 18, 1918.

RELIGIOUS INFLUENCES IN THE UNIVERSITY

"College men are now talking about religion in their own language. They are talking a religion that embraces better relations, people with each other and the individual in the highest possible way to the Universe," the dean of one of the most famous colleges in the United States recently declared at a meeting to discuss religion in the colleges. He pointed out that to eliminate sectarianism, large state universities and privately endowed institutions had neglected religion.

The president of one of the "Big Ten" universities who attended this meeting was quoted as declaring that youth is puzzled by the discrepancies between the religion practiced by modern society and that which it is asked to profess. The dean of a divinity school stated that youth had developed an over-credulity in biology. The president of another large university said that youth is just as religious today, if not as pious.

"The college man is passing thru a transition," according to this man. "The world developed more in the last one hundred years than in several centuries before. The college man is catching up. His religion shows in his increased interest in problems of peace, labor, and social relations. There is more altruism. Moral life in colleges was never higher."

"The teaching of religion," asserted another speaker, "is left out of all our larger private as well as public institutions of higher education. Sympathetic support has been given to religion as an extra-curricular activity."



Student choir of the University Episcopal church during the past year.

While the University of Nebraska does not exercise any official supervision over the religious life and education of the students, it does offer in the departments of history, philosophy, and literature, many courses in which the principles of morals and religion are discussed, the life teachings of the greatest religious teachers are considered, and the history of great religious and ethical movements traced.

Thru the work of the university pastors and the various denominations, the Y. M. C. A., and the Y. W. C. A., an imposing group of religious activities are carried on at the University. Members of the faculty on their own initiative have taken an active part in Lincoln churches. Several hundred graduates and former students of the institution are now engaged in religious work in all parts of the world. It has been estimated by a university pastor that approximately 80 per cent of the students are members of some church and that nearly 20 per cent express a preference for some particular church. From 30 to 40 per cent of the student body is estimated to attend church each Sunday, an average quite as respectable as that of church members generally. Perhaps the most important thing to note is that students and faculty have taken an interest in religious matters of their own free will; there is no sense of compulsion.

FACULTY INTEREST IN RELIGION

A survey conducted among the faculty and administrative staff of the University showed the following activities and religious work being conducted. Not all of those connected with the institution made returns in the survey. Following are the various activities listed by the workers and the number engaged in each line:

CHURCH WORKERS			
Members boards of stewards.....	3	Former missionaries	2
Members official boards.....	15	Conducts chapel at reformatory.....	1
Members boards of trustees.....	13	SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS	
Deacons	12	Superintendents	4
Deaconess	1	Assistant superintendents	7
Members boards of elders and elders	8	Teachers	40
Former office holders.....	3	Former office holders	12
Choir directors	2	Class officers	5
Choir members.....	8	Librarians	2
Ushers	2	Department sponsor.....	1
Treasurers	3	Religious education head.....	1
Officers or sponsors of church		CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS	
organizations.....	12	Members advisory boards.....	11
Committee members	20	Speakers	3
Scout masters and Camp Fire		Cabinet members.....	1
guardians.....	2	Committee chairmen	3
Organist	1	Former office holders.....	3

These positions were held by 150 members of the faculty and administrative force.



Westminster House, Presbyterian manse of the University pastor.

COLLEGE COURSES

Within the classroom the College of Arts and Sciences is able to offer in its appropriate departments several courses in the philosophy, history, art, and literature of religion. As will be obvious from the description of the courses, there is nothing in them of theological dogma or of sectarian creed. At the same time they open up to the student a range of interests of genuine cultural value. They might also well be taken by students who expect later to enter schools of theology or to prepare for social and religious service. Following are the courses offered:

Philosophy 20.—Elements of ethics

Philosophy 130.—Introduction to philosophy

Philosophy 161, 162.—Israel's religious ideals

Philosophy 163, 164.—New Testament ideals

Philosophy 261, 262.—Philosophy and psychology of religion

Sociology 135, 136.—Primitive religion

English 133, 134.—Intensive study of Job and other ancient literature and literary art in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Fine Arts 135, 136, 139.—Medieval art and cathedral architecture

Sociology 106, 127, 128.—Social betterment and social case work

Classics 71, 72.—Introduction to New Testament Greek

MANY GRADUATE WORKERS

It is estimated that between 350 and 400 graduates and former students of the University of Nebraska are actively engaged in religious work in various fields and denominations. Included in the list of activities

of the former students are pastors, many of them located in Nebraska; editors of church publications; missionaries to India, China, Japan, Porto Rico, Turkey, Korea, Chile, Mexico, Egypt, and other countries; others taking advanced missionary work; members of boards of home missions; missionaries in the United States; and heads of denominational schools. Some of them are medical missionaries and others are doing work for the Christian Associations in foreign countries. Among these are F. F. Tucker, medical missionary in charge of a hospital at Tehchow, Shantung, China; Stella N. Loughridge, educational missionary and principal of a girls' school in Turkey; Vera V. Barger, until recently Y. W. C. A. worker in Shanghai, China; G. A. Odgers, former principal of a boys' school in India and now in educational work in Hawaii; Walter Judd, medical missionary at Shaowu, Fokien, China; C. S. Holcombe, Y. M. C. A. worker at Cairo, Egypt; Dr. Paul Harrison, medical missionary to Bahrein, Arabia; and Ray Rice, head of the Damoh boarding school, Damoh, India.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCHES

The churches of the various denominations have a very great desire to make Lincoln a city of hospitality for all the students who attend the University. In the building of the new churches in recent years the needs of the student are kept especially in mind. Provision is made for ample equipment for worship and religious education. Special services for the students are arranged from time to time. The second Friday evening of the University year is known as "All-University Church Night" when church receptions are held universally thruout the city, the University co-operating by making it a "closed night" as a reception evening for students and faculty. In the early part of the year an All-University Church Day is observed. An invitation is sent to every student of the University suggesting attendance at the churches of the city and offering a cordial welcome to the students to attend the church of their choice on that day.

The students themselves have organized religious clubs representing the various churches. These clubs bring together students in a social way and frequently dinners are given when speakers of note are invited to address the students on some topic of common interest.

Six of the larger denominations maintain university pastors who devote all of their time to the religious interests of the various groups. The question is often asked: "What is the work of the university pastor?" This is not surprising because of the uniqueness of the work and because of the comparatively few years since it was inaugurated.

About twenty years ago people began to realize that in the great state universities there were a large number of students for whom the churches were doing comparatively little to conserve their religious life. Consequently some of the denominations began to appoint what are now known as university, or student pastors, to work with their respective groups of students in the state universities.

The six university pastors at Nebraska, together with the secretaries of the two Christian Associations, constitute what is known on the campus as the Federation of Church Workers. This group of representatives work thru a student council in planning all-university events which have for their object the furnishing of a moral and religious life for the students.



Pilgrim House, Congregational church house and residence of the pastor.

Usually two or three speakers of wide reputation and acceptable to student bodies are yearly invited to visit the campus and discuss matters of vital interest to students. The university pastors devote the greater part of their time, however, to the cultivation of personal acquaintance with the students in order to discover their more personal needs, such as vocational guidance and counsel in the matter of moral and religious life. Conferences, especially in the matter of vocational guidance, are arranged in order to help the students make a right choice of vocation. Outstanding men and women are frequently invited to the campus to hold personal interviews with many students on this important matter.



C. J. Pope, Baptist University pastor.

Five of the larger churches represented at the campus have recently built or secured church houses located near the campus. The university pastors are thus readily accessible to students and the church home may become to a certain extent a social center for the students. It is generally known thruout the University that these homes have become places of hospitality for students away from home. The churches which maintain such houses are the Baptist church, the Congregational church, the Methodist church, and the Presbyterian church. The Episcopal church has recently built club rooms in connection with the University Episcopal church. The total amount of money now invested in these five buildings is about \$140,000. Small groups meet here for discussion; committees convene to plan social gatherings and other projects in connection with the religious work among the students. Especially do the students find their way to these houses when they wish to discuss some personal problem with the university pastor.

The university pastors have opportunities to interpret the spirit and purpose of the University thruout the state, and they themselves frequently visit other cities and towns within the state, taking with them groups of students to visit high schools and churches. This is a form of community service known as deputation work.

Baptist.—In the student work of the Nebraska Baptist Student Council four objectives are kept in mind in connection with the work in behalf of the Baptist students at the University of Nebraska. These are the conservation of the moral and religious values developed in the young people in the environment of their homes and home churches, the bringing into vital and personal relation with Christ those who come within the circle of the influence of the workers, the development of the young people into efficient Christian workers so that they will take responsible places in the churches in years to come, and the enlisting of interest in the distinctive callings so that recruits may volunteer for the wider work.

The student council of the Baptist church now holds in trust for the denomination a property which will be admirably suited for student work. One of the present houses on this property is used as a house for the university pastor and as a center for Baptist students.

Catholic.—The Catholic Students' Club at the University of Nebraska was established in 1907. The club has a two-fold purpose — to further friendship and to foster religious education. Its social activities consist of a meeting every second Sunday of the month, after attending mass in the Cathedral and parties held once a month — the spring party being the social function of the second semester.

The club fosters religious training by having a Communion Sunday, the second Sunday of the month, when members receive Holy Communion in the Cathedral church. The Catholic Students' Club has a membership of 360 students attending the University. Rev. Joseph A. Kenney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral, is chaplain of the Catholic Students' Club. There are also a Catholic sorority and a fraternity on the campus.

Christian.—The work among the students of the University who give Christian church membership or preference is delegated by that church to the Nebraska Christian Foundation. This organization does its work thru the Christian churches of the city and because of the nearness to the center of student population and the adequacy of the new building, the First Christian church was made headquarters and is held responsible for the bulk of such work.

The pastor of the First Christian church is responsible for the student work and an earnest effort is made to enlist the students in the activities of the church. It is the theory of the Christian church that students are more



Catholic Student Club at the University of Nebraska for the past school year.



Frederick W. Leavitt, Congregational
University pastor.

benefited by a normal church life than by the effort to build student centers and to carry on a program apart from the church.

For the benefit of the students, a list of desirable rooms is maintained. The students who must work part time are assisted in the finding of employment. The homes of members of the First Christian church are frequently opened to the students, and the social committees of the young people's department maintain a strong social program thruout the school year. It is estimated that 300 students find their church home at the First Christian church, there being smaller groups in each of the other Disciples churches in the city. Many of the churches in the state contribute to the budget of the Foundation.

Christian Science.—Furthering the interests of the Christian Scientists, the Christian Science Society was organized in 1913 for the purpose of uniting the Christian Scientists within the University in closer bonds of Christian fellowship. Meetings are held twice each month and an annual reception for new students is given at the beginning of the school year. Each year the society sponsors a lecture given by a member of the board of lectureship of the mother church, the First Church of Christ Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Congregational.—The Congregational churches began the support of a university pastor about twenty years ago. In 1926, the Congregational conference bought the property at 1504 Q street, and now uses it as a Congregational student headquarters under the name of "Pilgrim House." Here the pastor's family lives and the setting is provided for the various student activities. Plans are considered for an improved house in later years.

The Pilgrim Student Fellowship, comprising the more than 500 students of Congregational preference and functioning thru a cabinet, promotes acquaintanceship parties quarterly, also Sunday afternoon classes for the

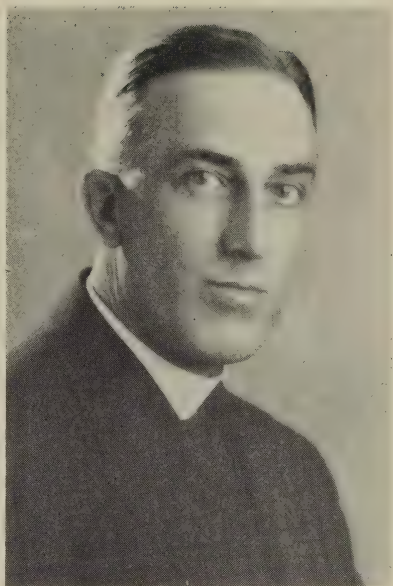
study of missions, the Bible, and the books of spiritual power, and supplies deputation teams for religious services in outlying churches, as these may be called for. The pastor becomes personally acquainted with as many students as possible and endeavors to introduce them to the churches of the city. He represents his denomination in the important common undertakings and offerings of the Federation of Church Workers in the University.

Episcopal. — The University Episcopal church is a student church. It is owned by the Diocese of Nebraska and, in the main, is supported from funds for this purpose. Local running expenses are met from the offering at the services.

The church is maintained for the benefit of university people and such others as care to attend.

About 250 students are communicants of the church. Regular services are maintained the year round. The services and sermons are intended to be of a type that will be of greatest good to the young people. Regular classes of instruction are held for various groups. Sunday evenings are usually given over to light suppers in the clubroom, followed by a "question box" or some other form of instruction. The choir is made up of about thirty-five young people with a student choir director and student organist. The Episcopal club is a branch or unit of the National Student Council of the Episcopal church which is a part of the National Department of Religious Education. In this national organization there are about seventy-five university and college units comprising some 50,000 students. There is a regular minimum program of worship, study, fellowship, and service that must be met to retain membership.

Here, in addition to a church for religious work with students, is a large clubroom for social life, classwork, dinners, and parties. Many students study here during the day. It is a general gathering place. The office of the priest in charge is here also, where he may be found for conference and help.



L. W. McMillin, pastor of the University Episcopal church.



Henry Erck, Lutheran University pastor.

The Episcopal church feels that the student idea is the best suited to the work. The influence of this church has spread until its young people are scattered over this country and even in foreign lands as missionaries, teachers, nurses, and church school workers. It is intended to furnish a place where young people may continue their religious activities during college days and go out into the world with well-defined habits of church life and become useful men and women.

Jewish.—The principal organized activity sponsored by the Jewish Temple in the interest of the Jewish students at the University is the Junior Congregation. Its meetings are held practically every week thruout the school year, usually on Sunday morning and occasionally on Sunday evening.

The Sunday morning meetings partake somewhat of a devotional character, with hymns, selected readings, and an address. The evening gatherings tend to stress the social side, and are varied in character; at the beginning a light supper is served, followed by an address, and, frequently, entertainment is provided by the students themselves. During mild weather the Junior Congregation holds a number of outdoor parties. From the outset, the group has endeavored to maintain a fund for charitable use, and from time to time donations are made to deserving causes.

The Junior Congregation is sponsored directly by the B'nai Jeshurun Sisterhood, which has a special committee on student welfare. This committee lends its assistance whenever needed, as in planning and preparing the Sunday evening suppers and in various other capacities. The Sisterhood entertains the students annually in a number of special affairs. Every fall, at the beginning of the school year, the Jewish Temple joins with the various Lincoln churches in welcoming the students and gives a reception in their honor in conjunction with a Friday evening service. Some years a special banquet is given.

Aside from the organized efforts, various members of the congregation make it a practice to welcome the students into their homes, and thus establish personal relations with them. In this way many pleasant ties are developed. This year the fraternities and sorority, three in number, provided the programs for a considerable number of the Junior Congregation meetings, using for the most part their own talent. Similar activities are sponsored by the Tifereth Israel synagogue.

Lutheran.—The Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church maintains a university pastor with offices in the University Temple. The pastor holds office hours daily and almost his entire time and energy are devoted to the spiritual welfare of students. Students call at his office during all hours of the day in quest of advice on matters both spiritual and moral. Some who do not come of their own accord are invited to a conference.

The pastor makes it a point to direct the students to the services of their respective churches in the city. In addition he has held regular religious meetings designed especially to meet the needs and conditions of the student. The Lutheran Bible League has been meeting for Bible study and discussion each Wednesday evening during the past four years. The group shows such an interest that even a stormy winter's evening brings an appreciable attendance. The pastor arranges a monthly social



Wesley Foundation parsonage of the Methodist Episcopal church.



W. C. Fawell, Methodist University
pastor.

which is usually held at the parish hall of Trinity Lutheran church. He also chaperons summer students on picnics and parties.

United Lutheran.—The United Lutheran student secretary represents the Augustana Synod, the United Danish church, the German Nebraska Synod, and the Nebraska Synod on the campus. The secretary, usually a post-graduate student, spends part time in attending to the duties of the office. The secretary serves as a Lutheran representative on the campus. She is ready to give out information regarding the church, and to be of assistance to students in other ways. She is a leader in the Lutheran club, an organization of students which meets twice a month, and she

endeavors to connect students with the Lincoln church of their synod during their student career. To that end the secretary seeks to establish contacts by personal visitation of students and by attendance at young people's meeting in the churches. The work for the 328 students of this faith is carried on under the supervision of a committee for Lutheran students, composed of pastors and laymen from congregations of Lincoln belonging to the co-operative bodies. Funds for the work have been received from the synods and the board of education of the United Lutheran church.

Methodist.—The Wesley Foundation is an organized effort of the Methodist Episcopal church to promote a vital religious life and program among the students and professors at the University for whom the church is responsible by affiliation or stated preference.

At present there are more than 1,800 Methodist students registered at the University of Nebraska. In the interests of this group, the Methodist church has maintained a university pastor at the University for sixteen years. In 1922, the Wesley Foundation was incorporated under the laws of Nebraska, with a board of trustees of twenty-one members. The

foundation now owns a frontage of ninety feet near Fourteenth and R streets, and has erected the first unit of a new building. This unit is the parsonage; the second unit will be a religious and social center.

Among the Methodist students the university pastor is working with six different Methodist churches where there are large student groups active in the church life. The Sunday School classes and Epworth Leagues are maintained especially for the groups in all these churches. All-Methodist student socials are held once a month at the respective churches.

Within the Wesley Foundation is now a Wesley Foundation Student Federation which every student is invited to join. The Methodist Student Council is the cabinet of this organization, and has a plan whereby every student will be reached. The plan also provides for caring for every religious need of the Methodist student.

Other active organizations within the Wesley Foundation are the Wesley Players, Methodist religious dramatic organization; Kappa Phi; and Phi Tau Theta.

The Wesley Players confine themselves to religious drama. This year they presented the religious drama, "The Rock," in Methodist churches at St. Paul, Lincoln, Seward, Milford, Plattsmouth, Omaha, Dorchester, Silver Creek, Central City, and Columbus. Kappa Phi is the Methodist girls' club on the campus, and is open to every Methodist girl who avails herself of the opportunity. There are now more than one hundred members, and they carry on thruout the year a religious and social program. Their aim is: "Every Methodist girl of today a leader in the church of tomorrow." Phi Tau Theta is the Methodist men's religious fraternity on the campus. It has thirty-five active members, with a weekly program which aims at the highest Christian development and fellowship. It is open to every Methodist boy in the University.

Presbyterian. — In 1909 the First Presbyterian church of Lincoln appointed the first minister to the students of Presbyterian affiliation. Later the pastor was elected by the Board of Christian Education as university pastor and counselor in religion, with instructions to



Dean R. Leland, Presbyterian University
pastor.



C. D. Hayes, general secretary,
University Y. M. C. A.

co-operate with all other religious organizations on the campus in conserving and developing the moral life and religious spirit of the students. The churches of Nebraska co-operating with the board of education are represented by the Westminster Foundation, an incorporated body of twelve trustees. This foundation provides necessary equipment, endowment, and maintenance for the work of the university pastor who devotes his energies to those more personal matters touching the student's religion and vocation. In order to enable the university pastor to make personal contacts with the 1,070 Presbyterian students, the foundation recently built Westminster house, located at 333 North Fourteenth

street, surrounded by rooming houses, fraternity and sorority houses, and near the R street entrance to the campus.

This house is not only a manse where the university pastor and his family live, but it is intended to be a home where students are always welcome. In the pastor's study, in the library, or around the fireplace, in the living room or in the student room, small groups meet for reading, for a social evening, or a round table discussion. The university pastor finds this a useful social center in the atmosphere of home, a point of friendly contact with students who are always encouraged to enlist in some form of religious activity, to affiliate with the local churches, and to make use of the privileges of worship and Christian fellowship in home, church, and on the campus.

Unitarian.—Between thirty-five and fifty university students are members of the young people's group at the All Souls Unitarian church. This group is active in the consideration of modern social, economic, and moral problems encountered in present day life, and what the attitude of the church should be toward these problems. The group also has a social life and entertainments.

THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

Furthering the interests of the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association, two general secretaries are maintained at the University campus in addition to the regular organizations downtown.

The University Y. M. C. A. is composed of a group of men who have for their aim the securing of the highest values of life for themselves and for their fellow students. With this purpose in view the students in the association form their own policies, plan and carry out their own program in the light of a constant study of campus situations and tendencies. This gives opportunity for development thru self-expression.

Among the projects carried out are groups for the study of the Christian way of life; discussions in fraternities with faculty leaders; open forums for the consideration of great religious, moral, social, and international issues of the time; and the bringing to the campus of speakers noted for their ability to understand and shed light on student problems. Certain parts of this program are conducted in co-operation with the church workers at the University and with the University Y. W. C. A. The Y. M. C. A. has a special responsibility for men out of contact with organized religious life. It furnishes a center thru which men of widely varying viewpoints on religion may learn to understand one another.

An interpretation of university life is given to high school students by deputation teams of University men co-operating with the local Hi-Y organizations in the state. A three days camp for a picked group of incoming freshmen just before registration in the fall serves as an orientation to college life. Both the visits and the camp build up friendly contacts that carry over into the University. Freshman discussion groups further relate the new man to the Association. The Association reading rooms in the Temple building furnish a place for study, read-



Miss Erma Appleby, University Y. W. C. A. secretary.

ing, and recreation. Many come to the secretary for personal counsel.

The University Y. W. C. A. is an attempt on the part of the women of the University to contribute to their own religious education. When a girl first comes to a large university the religion of her childhood may seem left rather far behind. In such a situation fellowship with other girls who are seeking to find and to test spiritual values is the greatest help. Such a fellowship the Y. W. C. A. provides. This fellowship finds expression in a variety of ways. There is for example the Tuesday afternoon vesper service, often the only hour of quiet in the midst of the week's rush. Besides this there are weekly Bible study groups and the weekly World Forum, where the women unite with the men in discussion of a wide variety of problems. Every year the women give a practical exhibition of the international spirit by supporting a piece of Y. W. C. A. work in China established by an international woman and alumna of the University of Nebraska, Grace Coppock.

The value of this fellowship is enhanced by two considerations, first because it seeks its expression on the campus in the midst of the day's work. Most of the study and discussion groups meet in the women's building, Ellen Smith hall, on the campus. In the second place it unites those of the most diverse creeds. One of the most popular discussion groups is made up of one representative of every religious faith represented on the campus.



Baptist Student House.

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY IS DOING

This pamphlet is one of a series telling in popular fashion of the work of the University of Nebraska. Other pamphlets now available are:

BETTER LIVING FOR NEBRASKA. *How the newer knowledge of nutrition and other developments in home economics are being passed along to the women of Nebraska.*

BETTER BUSINESS FOR NEBRASKA. *How the average citizen may profit from the work in business administration.*

BETTER HEALTH FOR THE STUDENT. *What the University does to conserve and improve the health of the student body. The other side of athletics, or intra-mural activities.*

BETTER HEALTH FOR NEBRASKA. *The remarkable accomplishments in medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy.*

LEADERSHIP IN LAW. *Showing the outstanding accomplishments and wide influence of the College of Law.*

The University of Nebraska welcomes the opportunity to be of greater service to the State of Nebraska. It will be glad to send these pamphlets to interested persons upon request.

Societies and organizations which are desirous of learning more of the practical side of the University's work may, upon request, secure a speaker from the University faculty.
Address

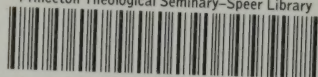
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University of Nebraska,
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Religious influences in the university.

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